

# Agritourism in Vermont Just Got a Little Less Risky

*Act 31 of 2021: Limiting Liability for Agritourism. Printed Signs available from UVM Extension.*

On July 1, 2021, Vermont Act 31 (H.89), An Act Relating to Limiting Liability for Agritourism, went into effect. Act 31 acknowledges that there are “inherent risks” in participating in agritourism activities and shifts those risks to properly warned consumers. To qualify for the limitation on liability, an agritourism host must post the required warning notice in a clearly visible location at or near the main entrance to each agritourism activity and include the warning notice



language in every written contract between the agritourism host and a participant. UVM Extension is distributing a limited supply of printed signs at no cost to farms.

Contact [vtagritourism@uvm.edu](mailto:vtagritourism@uvm.edu) if you would like a sign. For more information about Act 31, visit [www.uvm.edu/extension/vtagritourism/safety-liability-and-regulations](http://www.uvm.edu/extension/vtagritourism/safety-liability-and-regulations). To read the full act or act summary, go to [legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.89](http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.89)



AGRiVIEW

Vermont Agency of  
Agriculture, Food & Markets

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## THE VIEW FROM 116 STATE STREET

2020 was a year of turbulence, uncertainty, and change, with many important societal issues highlighted by the coronavirus pandemic. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets has been deeply involved in many of these issues impacting Vermonters, while ensuring that important agriculture considerations continue to stay at the forefront of ongoing legislative discussions. We wanted to update you on some of the important developments coming out from the 2021 Legislature that impact Vermont's agricultural landscape.

Each year, bills that are passed by the Legislature come to the Governor's desk and are signed into law, officially changing the House or Senate Bill to an Act. Governor Phil Scott signed the Appropriations

Bill (H. 439) on June 8, 2021, authorizing the Agency of Agriculture's budget along with the budgets of all state government in Act 74.

**Act 74** – an act relating to making appropriations for the support of government authorized a number of important funding items important to our agricultural economy and landscape, including:

- The Agency base budget request for Fiscal Year (FY) '21-'22 - \$31,410,614
- The Working Lands Enterprise program - \$2,594,000
- Agricultural Fairs and Field Days - \$500,000

Other funding in Act 74 that will impact agriculture but is not in the Agency's budget include:

- Vermont Housing and Conservation Board - \$10,000,000
- The Farm and Forest Viability Program - \$50,000

**Act 9** – an act relating to COVID-19 relief, included additional funding for:

- The Working Lands Enterprise Program - \$3,000,000
  - At least \$500,000 allocated for grants related to slaughter, meat processing and meat processing training proposals.
- Payment for Ecosystem Services - \$250,000

**Act 43** – an act relating to the Current Use (Use Value Appraisal) program. Under Current Use farmers are required to certify that the land enrolled in Current Use is still in active agricultural production by each November 1st. Should farmers miss the annual deadline, the legislature provided potential flexibility in Act 43 to prove continued compliance: "the (Tax) Commissioner may waive the certification requirement, provided the Commissioner obtains, through other means, satisfactory information that the agricultural land continues or agricultural buildings continue to meet the other requirements for enrollment."

Act 43 also updated the Current Use Program to allow for very small (1/10th of an acre) solar arrays. The land under these small solar arrays will not need to be removed from the Current Use Program.

**Act 67** – an act relating to equitable access to a high-quality education through community schools. This Act establishes that schools are required to report an estimate of the percentage of the cost of all locally produced food purchased (beginning with meals served in 2020-2021 school year). It also makes grant funding available to support schools to purchase local foods, based on meeting eligibility criteria.

- \$500,000 appropriation was made to the Agency of Education for one year of a local foods incentive grant program;
- A Task Force on Universal School Lunch was also created to offer recommendations on how to incorporate universal school lunch in all public schools at no cost to students or families.

**Act 31** – an act relating to limiting liability for agritourism. This Act reduces some liability risks for agritourism activities that meet the Act's requirements. The Act allows farms to shift responsibility for the "inherent risks" of agritourism activities to consumers when consumers are properly forewarned. The statute defines "Agritourism activity" as "an interactive or passive activity that is carried out for recreational, entertainment, or educational purposes on a farm and includes farming, food production, historical, cultural, pick-your-own, and nature-based activities." "Agritourism activity" in this Act does not include on-farm lodging, retail establishments, or farm stands. It is essential that farms read the statute and post and maintain the exact required warning notice and include it in every written contract to benefit from this liability protection.

**Act 47** – An Act related to miscellaneous agricultural subjects. This Act addresses an effort to improve the State's capacity to maintain a sufficient food supply during times of emergency or other food insecurity events. The Agency is tasked with bringing together a group to work on this update to the state's emergency management planning. This group will include:

- food insecure individuals
- farmers
- retail grocery store owners
- food distributors
- organizations that serve food insecure individuals
- the Department of Emergency Management; and
- the Agency of Human Services

This group will evaluate the activities surrounding food insecurity during the COVID 19 pandemic and review the potential for local food to supply needs during emergencies.

Act 47 also addresses the following issues:

- Clarifies the name and intent of the state-funded veterinary loan repayment program as the Food Animal Veterinarian Education Loan Repayment Program. Recipient veterinarians must devote a percentage of their time to food animal veterinary services. Qualifying service includes practice on livestock species, poultry and bees.
- Addresses personal use/on farm slaughter animal limits by doubling the number of animals and total live weight limit to 30 swine, 10 cattle, 80 sheep or goats, and any combination of swine, cattle, sheep, or goats, provided that not more than 12,000 pounds of the live weight of livestock are slaughtered per year. This statute also removed the sunset provision so the law will no longer expire in 2023.
- Clarifies and modernizes the definition of "livestock dealer" to refer to someone who is buying and/or selling livestock on his or her own accord or for commission, outside of his or her

*continued on page 5*

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# Business Planning Assistance Available for Vermont Farms

By Tony Kitsos, UVM Extension Farm Viability Program

The last year and a half have brought a great degree of uncertainty to all aspects of farm business, but many of Vermont's agricultural businesses have also seen opportunities amid this disruption. Now that the world and prices are (hopefully) on the path to being more predictable, it is a great time for Vermont farms to work towards water quality goals – and to meet with an agricultural business advisor.

With grant support from AAFM's Clean Water Initiative Program, UVM Ag Biz provides free, confidential, and impartial financial planning assistance to Vermont farms who are currently addressing water quality issues.

Many Vermont farms contemplate investments in water quality projects each year, but funding these projects is always an essential consideration. Is there enough money in the checking account to cover it all? Can the farm's budget withstand the added expense? Can EQIP and BMP funds adequately support the project? Is there room on the balance sheet to take out another loan? Are there additional grants available? UVM Extension's Agricultural Business team can help farms answer these questions and make the decision process go a bit more smoothly.

Farm owners can work one-on-one with professional business educators to evaluate the feasibility and impact of changes facing the farm and business to meet Vermont's water quality goals. Areas of analysis include:

- Cash flow and budget analysis
- Current business situation analysis
- Assessments of the adoption of new practices and new investments



- Short- and long-term strategic planning
  - Farm transfer or exit planning
  - Referrals to other in-depth business planning programs when necessary
- The Ag Biz team can also assist producers with the development of more long range, comprehensive business plans through the Farm and

Forest Viability Program. Larger scale topics that can be covered include farm business growth and expansion, land acquisition, business-to-business transition, family succession planning and farm retirement.

If you are looking to invest in a water quality infrastructure project and would like some free, impartial and confidential financial review from a professional, visit <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/agriculture/uvm-extension-water-quality-business-analysis-inquiry>, call Tony Kitsos UVM Outreach Professional, at 802-639-2130, or email [tony.kitsos@uvm.edu](mailto:tony.kitsos@uvm.edu)

## Building Better Bees: One Step at a Time

By Brooke Decker, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Consumer demand for Vermont products is well known. Demand for Vermont honey is no exception and was reportedly elevated during the pandemic. Yet, beekeepers are facing increasing challenges in their ability to manage healthy colonies and yield a honey crop significant enough to meet the demand.

Changes in landscape, farming practices, climate change, pests and diseases are challenges that contribute to the already strenuous and variable goal of making a honey crop. Shortages in a trained labor force, increasing costs of supplies and equipment also affect the ability of operations to fulfill the increasing demand for their products.

The Agency's Apiary Program has been working to address some of the beekeeping industry's challenges.



Some recent efforts include:

- **The development of a beekeeper training program:** A collaboration with the Vermont Beekeepers Association to train new beekeep-

ers in Best Management Practices with a goal of mitigating the spread of pests and disease.

- **Testing honey for adulteration:** Preliminary results do not show threat of widespread adulteration on store shelves in Vermont.
- **Varroa mite sampling kits:** Mite mitigation is the biggest challenge beekeepers face today. Sampling for mites monthly and mitigating them when appropriate is critical in management. Sampling kits are available for free from the Apiary program.
- **Programmatic Structure:** Establishment of an equitable and transparent enforcement program to ensure compliance with apiary regulations.

To learn more visit the Agency's Apiary web page: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/public-health-agricultural-resource-management-division/apiary-program>



## VERMONT AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEM PLAN 2021 – 2030:

# Bees & Honey



**Editor's note:** This brief is part of the Vermont Agriculture & Food System Plan 2021-2030 submitted to the legislature in January 2021. To read the full plan, please go to <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/document/vermont-agriculture-and-food-system-strategic-plan-2021-2030>

**Lead Authors:** Samantha Alger, UVM, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin; Jack Rath, Vermont Beekeepers Association, Northeast Center for Beekeeping

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### What's At Stake?

The pollination services of wild and managed bees are critical for the production of our food crops. However, managed and wild bees are in decline, due to a multitude of interacting stressors including pests and pathogens, habitat loss through land use change, and exposure to pesticides. Bee losses threaten biodiversity, food security, and the agricultural economy. Vermont has an active community of beekeepers that manage numerous county beekeeping clubs and provide honey and

other value-added products to stores throughout the state. Vermont is also home to several world-famous beekeepers and queen breeders. However, for the past decade, Vermont beekeepers have lost one-third of their colonies each winter. To ensure adequate pollination of our food crops and the protection of Vermont's honey and beekeeping industry, Vermont needs an integrated support system that mitigates current threats to wild and

managed bees and provides education to consumers.

### Current Conditions

Pollinators, including bees, contribute more than \$24 billion to the U.S. economy through their vital role in the production of fruits, nuts, and vegetables. Vermont has 14,553 hives producing an estimated 727,650 pounds of honey annually. These bees and beekeepers face significant challenges. Since 2006, Vermont beekeepers have lost an average of 33% of their honey bee colonies each winter and in 2018-



### Colony Losses by County, 2017

Statewide, annual colony loss for 2016-2017 was 38.6%. Colony losses were spatially clustered with loss greatest in the northeastern region and lowest in the western region of the state ( $p < 0.001$ ).

|            |        |
|------------|--------|
| Addison    | 32.49% |
| Bennington | 32.48% |
| Caledonia  | 40.18% |
| Chittenden | 34.82% |
| Essex      | 38.10% |
| Franklin   | 35.31% |
| Grand Isle | 33.08% |
| Lamoille   | 44.01% |
| Orange     | 44.83% |
| Orleans    | 51.58% |
| Rutland    | 35.68% |
| Washington | 47.25% |
| Windham    | 36.71% |
| Windsor    | 40.96% |

The most common causes of colony loss reported by beekeepers included Varroa, starvation, and swarming, however most beekeepers report 'other' reasons. Only one third of Vermont beekeepers reported monitoring their Varroa mites while two thirds reported treating for Varroa mites. 23% of Vermont beekeepers reported using no treatments in their hives. Vermont beekeepers who used miticides reported significantly fewer losses ( $p=0.003$ ).

2019, Vermont's average annual colony losses ranked third-highest nationally. Key threats facing bees are pests and pathogens, land use change (e.g., development), and pesticide application. To combat high colony losses, beekeepers need bees that are healthy, pathogen-resistant/tolerant, and adapted to Vermont's climate and long winters. However, thousands of colonies are imported to Vermont each year after participating in large pollination events where the risk of disease transmission is heightened.

The high value of honey

makes it a target for economically motivated adulteration (EMA)—the intentional adulteration of food crops for economic advantage. Honey fraud worldwide has resulted in a downward pressure on pure honey prices due to an oversupply of product, with most notable price drops in the US market. Some states have created standards of identity for honey. Here in Vermont, no such standards currently exist, leaving Vermont beekeepers and consumers

unprotected from adulterated "honey" products. Honey adulteration and its impact on the honey market is a critical issue for Vermont beekeepers and of importance to the regulating Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFM).

### Bottlenecks & Gaps

- Most beekeepers are small-scale and lack the resources for marketing local honey.
- Honey fraud has resulted in a downward pressure on honey prices due to an oversupply of product in the marketplace.

- Laws regarding the importation of honeybees into Vermont could be strengthened.
- The one Vermont apiculturist, who is responsible for helping mitigate the spread of pests and pathogens in Vermont's bees, supports all Vermont beekeepers through education, field inspections, and enforcement.
- There is a lack of long-term data on bee losses in Vermont. It is important to understand these losses and the relationship to habitat loss, pesticide use, pests and pathogens, and honey bee management practices.

### Opportunities

- Consumers recognize the critical role honeybees play in pollination and our food supply. A consumer education program can capitalize on that interest to boost local honey sales.
- Expanded in-state laboratory services, along with use of USDA laboratories, could offer pest and pathogen diagnostic services for Vermont beekeepers.
- Vermont employs a Pollinator Health Specialist who serves as a full-time apiculturist during the bee season and is collaborating with the Vermont Beekeepers Association. Increased collaboration with UVM researchers and Extension staff would help to achieve research and





- education goals.
- VAAFM has begun collecting data on colony losses and pest/pathogen management, helping stakeholders to understand patterns of bee health over time and the relationship to beekeeping management practices.

Recommendations

- Vermont laboratory services could be improved, with additional state-level funding to the University of Vermont Bee Lab and Extension,

- to ensure the future of pollinator research, education, and outreach collaborations between UVM and VAAFM. Cost: \$85,000 per year.
- Vermont should conduct a study to investigate the prevalence of adulterated and mishandled honey on the shelves of Vermont retail stores. Results should be published in aggregate and used to launch a consumer education program.



- Cost: \$18,000.
- The Vermont Beekeeping Association and VAAFM should develop a honey certification program that defines quality standards for authentic local honey and entitles participating beekeepers to branding that signals an authentic quality bee colonies product to consumers, thereby promoting the sale of certified honey products. Collaborate with the maple industry and their expertise in natural sweetener

- promotion to develop Vermont honey quality standards and public education initiatives. Cost to develop program: \$19,000. Annual maintenance: \$3,000.
- Enhance bee forage across the Vermont landscape through state-level incentives for land uses that support pollinator habitat. In 2019, the Vermont Center for Ecostudies began the Vermont Bee Survey which can be used to inform habitat incentive programs. For example,

- Vermont's Use Value Appraisal Program could be adjusted to provide tax incentives for landowners who conserve and develop pollinator habitat.
- Protect the efforts of Vermont's beekeepers to maintain healthy bee stock adapted to Vermont's climates, through increased state resources to support a robust apiary inspection program and laws governing the importation of honey bee colonies.

116 State Street

continued from page 2

- own farming operation. Also included is the ability for the Secretary of Agriculture to determine that a livestock dealing license is necessary in cases when individuals are intentionally subverting the intention of the law by using a "farming" exemption.
- Adds clarity to the definition of a "commercial weighing and measuring device" located in Title 9 Chapter 73 Weights & Measures Law. This will be helpful to businesses to understand what weighing and measuring devices, such as retail scales, need to be licensed and inspected by the VT Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets. The devices, such as scales, that do fall under licensing and inspection requirements are those used in direct sale situations where both the buyer and seller are present at

- the point of sale. This includes locations such as grocery stores, farmers markets, retail meat markets, and transfer stations. Scales being used to process, pack, and manufacture goods, or monitor inventory, are not required to be licensed or inspected. Most of these scales are located in factories, processing, and packing plants.
- Amends 6 V.S.A. § 563 enabling the Secretary to continue to operate Vermont's Hemp Program under the 2014 Farm Bill hemp pilot program authorization and for as long as "federal law authorizes continuation of the hemp pilot program". Currently the hemp pilot program is set to sunset on January 1, 2022.

**Act 22** – an Act relating to Tier II raw milk producers, expands sales capacity by allowing them to contract with a farm stand or community-supported agriculture organization (CSA) to sell raw milk. Farm

stands and CSAs share legal liability for the raw milk with the farm producer. Tier II producers must notify the VAAFM dairy section prior to having their milk sold at a farm stand or CSA.

**Act 49** – an Act Relating to Establishing the Agricultural Innovation Board while simultaneously repealing the Vermont Pesticide Advisory Council. The Agricultural Innovation Board has 13 members and is tasked with providing policy recommendations to achieve the following:

- Reducing pesticide usage in the state
- Reducing adverse effects of pesticides on human and environmental health
- Reducing plastic use and waste generation in farming

Act 49 also repeals the Seed Review Panel and transfers the responsibility to review seed traits of new genetically engineered seeds proposed for sale to the Agricultural Innovation Board.

**Act 41** - an act relating to the regulation of agricultural inputs for farming, including:

- Amending the definition of "farming" under Act 250 to include importation of up to 2,000 cubic yards per year of food residuals or food processing residuals onto a farm for production of compost, provided that the compost is principally used on the farm where it is produced or the compost is produced on a small poultry farm.
- Adding definitions of "farm," "food processing residuals," "food residuals," "principally used," and "small farm" to provide clarity on the terms used in the definition of "farming." The act amends the definition of farming under the Required Agricultural Practices so that it is consistent with

the amended definition of farming under Act 250.

- Establishing an agricultural residuals management program at AAFM to manage residual wastes generated, imported, or managed on farms. AAFM shall adopt rules for the management of food residuals and food processing residuals on a farm.

While many of these changes may go unnoticed by most Vermonters, they will have significant positive impacts on our state's agriculture industry, businesses, and in many cases, families. My thanks go to all the members of the legislature, agriculture officials and representatives of the Agency of Agriculture for your hard work moving these important legal changes forward for Vermonters.

Anson Tebbetts,  
Secretary, Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

# Goat and Sheep Dairy Supply Chain Grant Application is Open

By Kathryn Donovan,  
NE-DBIC Program  
Coordinator

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) is currently accepting applications for the Goat and Sheep Dairy Supply Chain Grant program. This grant program is open to Vermont (and New England) dairy farmers, processors, and/or producer associations to improve the goat and/or sheep dairy supply chain.

Multiple supply chain



partners must be positively impacted through projects that develop or expand goat

and/or sheep dairy products or markets that will positively impact multiple

businesses within the goat and/or sheep dairy supply chain. Projects should increase the exposure and promotion of regionally produced goat/sheep dairy products through supply chain impacts.

Funded projects will increase consumer awareness of goat/sheep dairy products, develop market channels and distribution opportunities to increase goat/sheep dairy product placement, support innovative strategies to increase consumption of goat/sheep dairy products,

and/or increase business revenues related to goat/sheep dairy products.

Grants will range from \$20,000 - \$50,000 with a 25% match commitment. A total of \$250,000 is available.

Deadline to apply is August 19, 2021 at 2:00 PM

To find out more about this opportunity and apply visit [agriculture.vermont.gov/dbic/activities](https://agriculture.vermont.gov/dbic/activities)

Questions about NE-DBIC grants? Contact [kathryn.donovan@vermont.gov](mailto:kathryn.donovan@vermont.gov) or 802-585-4571.

## NE-DBIC Announces Study on Consumer Perceptions of Dairy Brands

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) has hired a contractor, Metro Tribal, LLC to analyze consumer perceptions of dairy brands, perform a brand strategy assessment, and create a marketing and branding toolkit for Northeast dairy businesses to utilize.

The contractor will develop a list of companies that have exemplary

branding strategies, research what themes exist in those successful brands, and survey consumers about what makes those products attractive to them.

Additionally, they will develop 12 case studies of companies that highlight attributes of each business's successful branding efforts and will develop a branding guidance toolkit that will likely address aspects of successful strategies such as

color scheme, typography, words/descriptors, location identifying characteristics, and label/packaging characteristics (e.g., full carton printing, use of add-on stickers). Results, toolkit and a webinar will be available to the public next summer.

Questions about this research? Contact [laura.ginsburg@vermont.gov](mailto:laura.ginsburg@vermont.gov) or 802-522-2252.



## Goat and Sheep Dairy Market Research Tools Now Available!

New goat and sheep dairy market research and an interactive dashboard funded by the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) has been released for public use. The purpose of this research was to understand the role and current gaps in the Northeast regional supply of goat and sheep milk products, including looking forward to upcoming trends to provide a foundation for the expansion of goat and sheep milk products from New England to regional and national markets.

A recorded presentation of the findings, full report, and dashboard are available now at [bit.ly/3weS2WS](https://bit.ly/3weS2WS)

Questions about this research? Contact [laura.ginsburg@vermont.gov](mailto:laura.ginsburg@vermont.gov) or 802-522-2252.





# What Does Hemp Cultivation Look Like in 2022 and Beyond?

Stephanie Smith, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

The Hemp Program is tackling questions about what future regulation will look like for hemp cultivation in Vermont. This question is on the minds of Vermont businesses because the U. S. Domestic Hemp Production Program's final rule became effective in March, and the 2014 Farm Bill pilot program authorization is due to expire at the end of 2021. Vermont

continues to operate under the pilot program authorization, which has enabled its farmers to enter the hemp market and have more flexibility in sampling and testing crops for tetrahydrocannabinol concentration.

The Agricultural Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is currently accepting plans from states seeking primary regulatory control over hemp cultivation in accordance with its final rule and the 2018 Farm Bill. By

the end of 2021, all states that wish to register/license and regulate hemp cultivation must have a state plan approved by USDA. Unless Congress enacts any related changes, this is the last growing season under the 2014 Farm Bill Pilot Program authorization for Vermont growers.

Absent legal change, Vermont growers will have to register under a State plan approved by USDA. Or, in the absence of an approved State plan, with USDA, directly. Regardless of whether Vermont or USDA registers/licenses hemp growers and regulates hemp cultivation next year, the following changes are on the horizon for 2022 for all Vermont hemp growers. The Hemp Program wants all registrants to be aware of and thinking about the below summary of changes required by the 2018 Farm Bill and the related final rule. The following summary is for informational purposes.

## Paperwork requirements

- A registration/license will not be issued unless a criminal history report(s) submitted with the application confirms that key participant(s) covered by the registration/license have not been convicted of a felony relating to a controlled substance within the past ten (10) years, unless the person was lawfully cultivating hemp under the 2014 Farm Bill and registered

on or before December 20, 2018, and whose felony conviction also occurred before that date.

- All registrants/licensees must report hemp crop acreage to the Farm Service Agency within 30 days of planting hemp and provide the location where hemp is being produced, acreage or square footage of all areas dedicated to hemp production, and the issued registration/license number.
- All registrants must annually report acres planted, acres harvested, and acres destroyed in a timely manner.

## Sampling practices

- Sampling for required potency testing must be performed by a "sampling agent". USDA will issue sampling guidelines and training requirements for sampling agents. Producers will no longer be able to collect samples of their own crops.
- Sampling agents must collect floral material from the flowering tops of the plant by cutting the top five to eight inches from the "main stem" (that includes the leaves and flowers), "terminal flower" (that occurs at the end of a stem), or "central cola" (cut stem that could develop into a flower) of the top of the plant. Depending on the size of harvest lot multiple cuttings will comprise the representative sample.
- Sampling must occur no

more than 30 days prior to harvest.

- If the registrant/licensee fails to complete a harvest within thirty (30) days of a sample collection, a second pre-harvest sample of the remainder of the lot shall be required to be submitted for potency testing.
- Sampling agents must have complete and unrestricted access to all *hemp and other cannabis plants, (whether growing or harvested)*, all hemp production and storage areas, all land, buildings, and other structures used for the cultivation, handling, and storage of all *hemp and other cannabis plants*, and all locations listed in the producer license. [emphasis added].

## Compliance

- The acceptable hemp tetrahydrocannabinol level is when, after the application of the measurement of uncertainty, the range of total delta-9-THC concentration includes 0.3 percent or less, as measured on a dry weight basis. Total delta-9-THC includes the potential conversion of tetrahydrocannabinolic acid into THC.
- Cannabis plants exceeding the acceptable hemp THC level constitute marijuana, a schedule I controlled substance under the federal Controlled Substances Act and

## For Agricultural Events and Resources Visit:

- The VT Agency of Agriculture Events Calendar: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/calendar>
- UVM Extension Events Calendars: [https://www.uvm.edu/extension/extension\\_event\\_calendars](https://www.uvm.edu/extension/extension_event_calendars)
- Vermont Farm to Plate Events Calendar: <https://www.vtfarmtoplate.com/events>
- Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont Events Calendar: <http://nofavt.org/events>
- DigIn Vermont Events Calendar: <https://www.diginvt.com/events/>
- Agricultural Water Quality Regulations: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality/regulations>
- Agency of Ag's Tile Drain Report now available here: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/tile-drainage>
- VAAFM annual report available here: [http://agriculture.vermont.gov/about\\_us/budgets\\_reports](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/about_us/budgets_reports)
- Farm First: Confidential help with personal or work-related issues. More info call: 1-877-493-6216 any-time day or night, or visit: [www.farmfirst.org](http://www.farmfirst.org)
- Vermont AgrAbility: Free service promoting success in agriculture for people with disabilities and their families. More info call 1-800-639-1522, email: [info@vcil.org](mailto:info@vcil.org) or visit: [www.vcil.org](http://www.vcil.org).

For more agricultural events visit our Funding Opportunities & Resources for Businesses webpage at: [http://agriculture.vermont.gov/producer\\_partner\\_resources/funding\\_opportunities](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/producer_partner_resources/funding_opportunities)

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# Produce Safety Bite: Cleaning and Sanitizing Food Contact Surfaces

*On-farm food safety tips for fruit & vegetable growers*

By Ollie Cultrara, VT  
Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

**P**roduce safety means protecting fruits and vegetables from becoming contaminated with pathogens that can cause serious illness. Effective cleaning and sanitizing of food contact surfaces is critical to preventing contamination of produce.

## Identify food contact surfaces

Food contact surfaces are surfaces that directly contact produce and surfaces that contact water that directly contacts produce either during or after harvest. This includes harvest equipment, containers, dunk tanks, ice bins, washing equipment, grading belts, and packing tables.

## Clean effectively

To clean food contact surfaces properly, follow these steps: (1) remove dirt and debris, (2) scrub with a detergent, and (3) rinse with clean water. You can think of proper cleaning like washing dishes: scrape or rinse off leftovers, scrub with a brush or sponge and soap, and rinse.

## Sanitize when appropriate

Applying a sanitizer after cleaning can reduce the presence and buildup of microbes. Consider using a sanitizer for surfaces that are used frequently or for surfaces that process large

volumes or different types of produce. Be sure to clean first – you cannot effectively sanitize a dirty surface because sanitizers don't break down dirt and debris. Sanitizers must be approved for use on food contact surfaces and used according to their label requirements.

## Dry thoroughly

Microbes love wet places, so the final step is to allow the surface to dry completely. This is especially important for porous surfaces, like wood, which cannot be adequately sanitized.

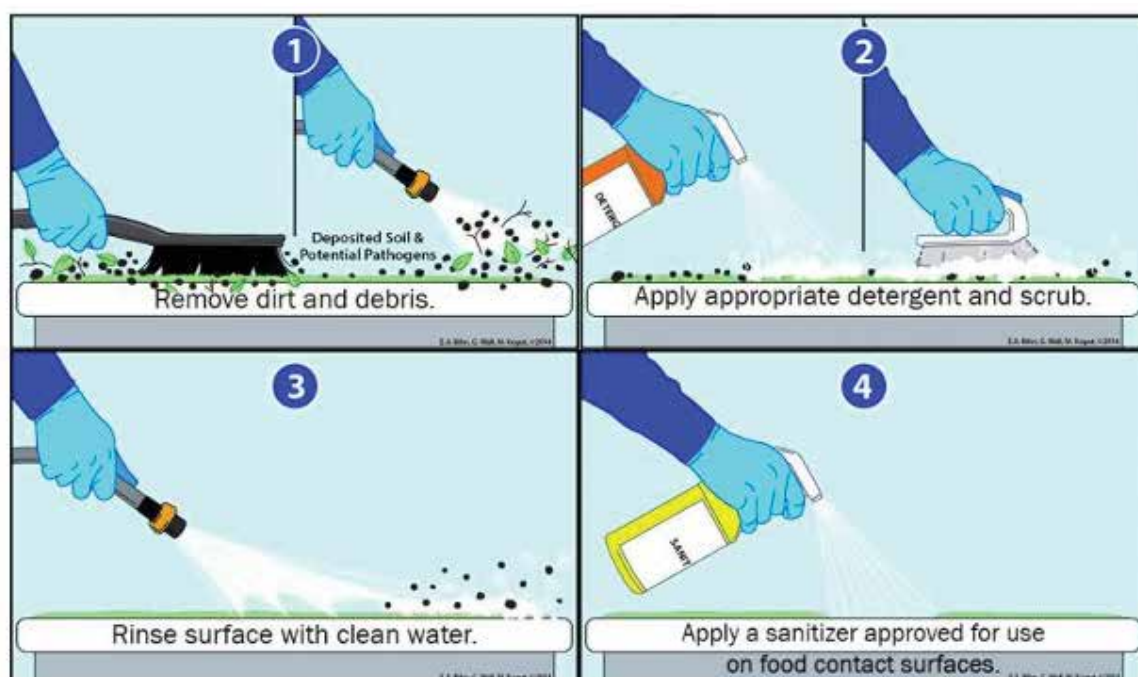
## Make it routine

The most critical times to clean a food contact surface are before and after use. How often you clean may depend on how often the food contact surface is used, how dirty it gets, and whether it's used for one or more crops. A standard operating procedure (SOP) can help you set expectations for how often surfaces are cleaned, and a cleaning log can help you keep track of cleaning tasks.

## Next steps

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule (PSR) sets a standard for preventing contamination from food contact surfaces. Whether or not your farm is subject to the PSR requirements, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets Produce Program

## Cleaning and Sanitizing Food Contact Surfaces



and UVM Extension can provide assistance with cleaning and sanitizing routines. Contact the Vermont Produce Program

at [AGR.FSMA@vermont.gov](mailto:AGR.FSMA@vermont.gov), (802) 461-5128 or the UVM Extension Produce Safety Team at [producesafety@uvm.edu](mailto:producesafety@uvm.edu).

For more information, visit [agriculture.vermont.gov/produceprogram](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/produceprogram)

## Who Audits Your State Food Safety Auditors?

*The Meat Inspection Program Completes its Every-3-year Audit by USDA*

By Dr. Katherine McNamara, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

**T**he Vermont Meat Inspection Program provides inspection services for meat and poultry slaughter operations, simple processing for ground products and individual cuts, and complex processing for products such as ham, bacon, summer sausage, Jerky products, and much more. The inspection of these products and processes allows local producers to market their meat and poultry products to consumers, restaurants, retailers, and wholesalers throughout the state.

The Vermont State Legislature

determined that meat and poultry products are an important source of the state's total supply of food, and that it is essential to the public interest that the health and welfare of consumers be protected in the production of these commodities. Therefore, the Vermont Meat Inspection Section was established by the Legislature in 1967.

The Agency of Agriculture has a cooperative agreement with the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) which allows Vermont's Meat Inspection Program to provide inspection services to meat and poultry slaughter and processing facilities that produce product to be sold

*continued on page 13*





# Meet the Water Quality Division Field Staff!

By Sonia Howlett , VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets Water Quality (WQ) Specialists, commonly referred to as “Farm Coordinators” or “Inspectors,” help facilitate farm compliance with Vermont’s water quality regulatory framework, while also serving as resources and educators for the farming community and the public.

At minimum, Vermont’s largest farms (LFOs) are visited by a WQ Specialist once per year, medium-sized farms (MFOs) once every three years, and certified small farms (CSFOs) once every seven years. On these scheduled inspections, WQ Specialists visit all structures at each farm operation to evaluate compliance with Vermont regulations, and share information and materials that could help the farm to fix any water quality challenges that they are facing. Water Quality Specialists are also legally required to visit farms of all sizes outside of this set inspection schedule to follow up on any Water Quality complaints received by the Agency.

The WQ Division has recently restructured, so starting this year inspection staff will be assigned geographic territories and will work with farms of all sizes within their territory. The division also brought several new faces onto the team. If you are curious

about who may be coming out to visit your farm, see attached table for inspector territories and read on to learn more about each field staff member!

**Abbi Pajak** has been a member of the Water Quality division for 18 years. She started out as an intern and joined the program at its inception! She enjoys working with the farms she inspects to find solutions to water quality concerns that work for them, and prides herself on clear communication to the farming community. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, cooking and gardening. (802) 461-8643; [abbi.pajak@vermont.gov](mailto:abbi.pajak@vermont.gov)

**Connor Steckel** has worked in the WQ division at the Agency for two years.

Prior to starting with the Agency, Connor worked as a plants and soils technician for the Bureau of Land Management and as a farm hand on a small NEK dairy. Connor uses his experience with agriculture and natural resource management to help farmers identify natural resource concerns and discuss potential solutions and funding options that can enable them to install water quality improvements on their operations. For fun, Connor likes fly-fishing, backcountry skiing, and pottery. (802) 522-0065; [connor.steckel@vermont.gov](mailto:connor.steckel@vermont.gov)

**David Wardrop** has been an inspector for a year. He previously served as an Americorps member with the WQ division starting in 2019. David wanted to work as a WQ Specialist because

of his appreciation for the large farming community in the state, with an emphasis on the goal of being a better land and water quality steward. In his free time, David enjoys snowboarding, mountain biking, and hiking. (802) 622-4058; [david.wardrop@vermont.gov](mailto:david.wardrop@vermont.gov)

## Jake Peterson

is one of our newest inspectors, who joined the division in March of 2021. Previously, he worked for the Southern Rhode Island Conservation District for five years helping farmers and landowners address natural resource concerns but he always wanted to call Vermont home. According to Jake, “working as a WQ Inspector is a great way to work directly with and help farmers, while improving Vermont’s natural resources.” For fun, he enjoys running, biking, and cooking. (802) 636-7286; [jake.peterson@vermont.gov](mailto:jake.peterson@vermont.gov)

**Luke Hughes** is another of our newest inspectors – he joined March 1st 2021. After 15 years in a similar role with the Maryland Department of Agriculture’s Office of Resource Conservation, Luke and his wife decided to relocate

their family to the Green Mountain State, where he says he feels fortunate to have been offered a position with VAAFM. He enjoys the arts, fitness and family – in that order, he jokes! (802) 636-7289; [luke.hughes@vermont.gov](mailto:luke.hughes@vermont.gov)

## Silas Rainville

joined the WQ division four months ago, at the same time as Jake and Luke. He has a strong connection to Vermont’s agricultural community. According to Silas, “I was led to this position by my interest in the health of Vermont’s surface waters, as well as the viability of our farming community and working landscape.” For fun, he enjoys many outdoor activities, including fishing, biking, and planting trees. (802) 636-7334; [silas.rainville@vermont.gov](mailto:silas.rainville@vermont.gov)

**Steve Cash** worked in the Water Quality division for a long time but has recently re-joined us after a year spent in another division within the Agency of Agriculture, working with fertilizer and pesticide inspections. (802) 477-3263; [steven.cash@vermont.gov](mailto:steven.cash@vermont.gov)

**Sylvia Jensen** has worked in the Water Quality division for five years. Previously she worked as a Land Use Administrator specializing in farmland conservation

| Water Quality Specialists                   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Tactical Basin                              | Specialist                     |
| Batten Kill-Walloomsac-Hoosic               | Luke Hughes                    |
| Deerfield-Connecticut Direct                | Luke Hughes                    |
| Lake Memphremagog                           | Silas Rainville, Sylvia Jensen |
| Lamoille                                    | Sylvia Jensen                  |
| Missisquoi                                  | Connor Steckel, David Wardrop  |
| Northern Lake Champlain                     | Luke Hughes                    |
| Ottawaquechee-Black-CT Direct               | Luke Hughes                    |
| Otter Creek-Little Otter Creek-Lewis Creek  | Abbi Pajak, Jake Peterson      |
| Passumpsic                                  | Abbi Pajak                     |
| Southern Lake Champlain                     | Steve Cash                     |
| Stevens-Wells-Waits-Ompompanoosuc-CT Direct | Silas Rainville                |
| Upper Connecticut                           | Silas Rainville                |
| West-Williams-Saxtons-CT Direct             | Luke Hughes                    |
| White                                       | Silas Rainville                |
| Winooski                                    | Sylvia Jensen                  |



## VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY NEWS



Compiled by Vern Grubinger,  
University of Vermont  
Extension  
(802) 257-7967 ext. 303, or  
vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu  
[www.vvbga.org](http://www.vvbga.org)

## Reports From The Field

(Guildhall) Things seem to be moving along in the potato crop. The plants are dark green, Atlantics are flowering. They have been tine-weeded, S-tined, and now have their first hill on. Weed control is good aside from one patch of morning glory where last year's dry manure was staged. Leafhoppers came early, but population remains low. Overwintered CPB came and went, first generation adults are up, second generation grubs are second instar and getting sprayed today. We are tank mixing Guarantee Kelp with every spray after getting phenomenal results with it last year. Construction season is in full swing; potato barn addition frost walls should be poured by end of next week.

First time I have worked with ICF block, really good stuff.

(Rochester) We have been watering the blueberries and raspberries around the clock except on the rare occasion it rains hard. Our wells seem to be holding up. We have pump protectors on them so we no longer be afraid of burning the pumps up. There will be no harvest records broken this year. Some of the blueberry varieties look great but we have had a resurgence of Fusicoccum in others despite full and timely treatment with lime sulfur. Patriots and Blue Crop again had lots of fruit but a shortage of leaves in some of the more mature canes. Regenerative growth is excellent.

Summer raspberries have a very good fruit set and are starting to ripen but florican leaves are yellowing early and I suspect drought stress and temperature fluctuations might be the cause since the nutrients are where they should be. Good luck for a bountiful year everyone!

(Newbury) Potatoes started to blossom this week and Colorado potato beetles are flourishing.

Favas are wilting but will be ready this week. Shell peas were the earliest ever. The first week of June. Done now. Flea beetles are a menace. Blueberries are showing

color and the netting goes up next week.

(E. Montpelier) I laid drip tapes on potatoes after the first hilling. It is super dry in East Montpelier, what a relief to not obsess on radar and turn on the water. I "think" I can remove the header and leave the drips on the hill for the second hilling and then plug it all back in, I hope.

(W. Rutland) Hot peppers and garlic looking excellent. The timing of rainfall could not be better so far.

(Poultney) Blueberries are coming along well, big, full, fat, and tasty. Red and black raspberries are a bit behind that, but also coming along. Saw some kind of webworm on one of the blueberry bushes. Clipped that branch and burned it. Some kind of shiny beetle eating the tops of a few of the red raspberries in the lower field. Have not had time to research what that is yet.

We took over this existing farm, which had been managed from afar the last several years. Didn't get up here in time to prune blueberries or take soil samples, and had to run back to Houston for a couple of weeks to get our daughters to doctor's appointments – we're still in transition this year. We've mulched several of the rows and put up pie plate pyramids on fishing barrel clips that seem to keep the birds at bay. Didn't amend the soil for fear of doing more harm than good. Goal this year was to clean out the rows, watch, assess and plan for next year. Have been surprised how well the blueberries are coming in despite us. Fortunately, there's been good rain, as we haven't

managed to get the pump on the irrigation system going.

(Westminster) The weather has been dry but nothing catastrophic yet, and we are harvesting plenty of greens: lettuce, kale, collards, and chard, as well as bunched golden beets. We expect to begin harvesting carrots and cabbage in a couple of weeks.

Not much problem with disease or insects, except for flea beetles, which have been a real bear this year. We've managed to keep them down with organic pesticides Entrust and Pyganic.

Wholesale prices have been steady and sales have been good, especially after our Florida market for greens finally kicked in. We're also proud to note that our farmstand is celebrating its 30th year in business in 2021!

(Elmore) Even the chipmunks are sitting in the shade and barely coming out. No rain, often if we drive south off the farm it has rained everywhere but in our fields. The heat is unbearable for us and our crops. The only thing keeping us going is a sense of humor.

Tree fruits seem to find a way, with deeper roots to get what they need. We have a fine crop of plums coming in and today a nice load of sour cherries, fuller than I can remember. But who has the strength to climb high up ladders and harvest when it is 90 degrees in the shade? We take longer lunch breaks in the shade and bought harmonicas for the crew. One of the staff gives weekly lessons. This keeps us cooler and makes sure we're still breathing. I'm grateful the crew shows up day after day in the heat.

Blueberries and currants

are smaller this year in size, probably due to no rain. Our well pump broke and we had to call three places until someone who knew what it was fixed it same day. All the hardware stores around us are out of hoses, sprinklers, water timers. When it does rain, feels like the rainforest as birds and insects begin singing and sometimes I think I hear monkeys chattering. Could be the heat.

(Orwell) High tunnel tomato harvest began in earnest last week. Interesting to note that even though we started our plants about 2 weeks earlier this year, our harvests are almost exactly aligned with last year. Growing degree days are nearly the same between 2020 and 2021, so I wonder if the temperature swings slowed things down, or if there is just not enough natural light in early spring to make the early start pay off. Next year, hopefully we can save on the heating bill!

Tomato quality is looking good, although more signs of abiotic distress than usual, also probably due to the swings in temperature. Hard for the plants to adjust to 40-degree nights (we ran out of fuel during one cold stretch, so it got chilly!) and a few days later, daytime temps over 90.

In the fields, recent rains and now cooler temperatures have relieved some of our drought stresses, but we are actively working on ways to mitigate pressures on our farm from the climate crisis in years to come. Rainwater capture, pumping water from the lake into a storage pond, more cover crops, less tillage: things we are thinking about as we look ahead.

*continued on page 12*



BUSINESS PLANNING  
BUSINESS VALUATION  
TRANSFERS & SUCCESSIONS  
TAX PLANNING & PREPARATION

LAND & FARM  
REAL ESTATE SERVICES

**B** BASSETTE  
Real Estate Group  
802-457-2244 (office)



KEVIN CHANNELL Kevin@farmandforestservices.com  
802-249-7384 www.farmandforestservices.com



## CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad in *Agriview* sign up to be a paid subscriber — visit our website: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/administration/vaafm-news/agriview/advertising-agriview>

Email: [Agri.agriview@vermont.gov](mailto:Agri.agriview@vermont.gov), phone: 802-828-1619. Deadline for submissions is the 1st of each month for next month's issue. Example: January 1st deadline for February issue.

**Cattle**

2 Registered Guernsey cows: Certified A2A2, milking 75- 80lbs, both sired by Welcome JT – \$1200 each. 1 registered Guernsey bred heifer due late August A2A2 certified, sired by Latimer; dam is EX90 \$1500. 802-222-4047. (6)

22 Jersey cows 2 bred heifers. 4 fresh Jan, 2 Feb, 3 due Mar, 4 Apr, 1 May, 2 Jun. Can be reg. Feed grain hay pasture. 802-775-3846 (6)

3 breeding age bulls- one Hereford, 2 angus for breeding or beef. Asking \$850 each or will consider trading for Hereford heifers. 802-586-2857 (6)

High quality Organic Registered Holstein, Springing and bred heifers available. Call Spring Brook Farm, 802-673-9061 / 673-3810 (6)

Cow-calf pairs, bred cows, open heifers. Mixed breeds, certified Organic, on pasture. Fair prices. 802-254-6982. (6)

Angus Bulls for sale. Greensboro, VT (802) 533-9804 (6)

Registered Ayrshire Cattle for sale, for more info contact Rachel [rachelbefore@gmail.com](mailto:rachelbefore@gmail.com) or call 802-673-7649 (6)

Registered Black Angus Cows- Bred cows and heifers-\$2000. Cow/calf pair starting at \$2300. 16 years select Sire Artificial Breeding. Calm, grass-fed, No Antibiotics/hormons. 802-782-9970 [drdickinson@dbdentalcarevt.com](mailto:drdickinson@dbdentalcarevt.com) (7)

**Equipment**

Riley stationary hoof trimming

chute. Purchase new 2012. Lightly used and excellent shape. \$4500 OBO. Call 802-533-2984 (6)

JD 350 Dozer. New treads, many new undercarriage parts. Winch. Runs well. \$15,000. Thistle Hill Farm [info@ThistleHillFarm.com](mailto:info@ThistleHillFarm.com) or 802-457-9349 (6)

3 point hitch fertilizer spreader 500# works well 350.00. 802 384 3553 and [wallysdomesticzoo@gmail.com](mailto:wallysdomesticzoo@gmail.com) (6)

7-8 ton brock grain bin- excellent shape. 35 International Rake. John Deere Harrow all fix up 10 ft transport. 24 ft hay elevator. 802-624-0143/802-895-4683 (6)

IH 843 Combine Cornhead; IH 7ft windrow head for 881 Gehl 350 spreader; 5 ton and 25-ton grain bins; Case 580 backhoe for parts; Case 850 drive sprockets; 85,000 BTU wood coal furnace. Call 802-770-0959 (6)

65-gallon Dutch-made vat pasteurizer with Anderson chart recorder, \$20,000. 15-gallon Jaybee vat pasteurizer, \$6,000. Both work well and are state-approved, but we've outgrown them. (6)

Tandem axle trailer, 7 X 14, new bed. \$600.00 tel. 802-226-7653. (6)

New Holland 7320 two years old \$18,000.00 802-779-5543. Kuhn real Augie 142 helix. \$25,000.00. 802-779-5543. 802-522-3402. (6)

1950 Ford 8N Tractor Engine rebuilt 600+hours. Need sworkon right rear brake seal. Used for picking up

haybales, snow removal, cut wood pick up \$1000. 802-592-3320 (7)

2 Forage wagons-Badger and Gehl 980 each with very good roof. 2 Gehl Hi-Throw Blowers, 1 John Deere 7000 four row corn planter for seeding only. 1 cultivator 4 row. 1 Gehl 860 two row corn chopper with two heads-new gathering chains for 1 head, still in box. 2 silo unloaders 16' Hanson Surface drive, Volumatic III ring drive. All equipment was serviced and ready to use last fall. Farm has moved away from corn due to weather issues. Please call Joe 802-595-5267 (7)

**Equine**

Mini harness like new condition. Strong leather no cracking or mold. 250.00 email for sizing and pics. [wallysdomesticzoo@gmail.com](mailto:wallysdomesticzoo@gmail.com) 802 384 3553 (7)

**Farm & Farmland**

For Lease: 10 acres of organic meadow in Brandon, currently in alfalfa. Producing roughly 12-15 tons per year in dry hay. Three-year lease available, price negotiable, but approximately \$600/yr 802-247-8459 (6)

Opportunity for Barn Lease in Williston Summer 2020: Well-maintained farm residence with equine barn, stalls, and pasture for up to four animals. Call Robin at 802-434-2788 for details (6)

**General**

Shelburne/ 5-gallon pails with handles. \$.75 each. Negotiable for volume purchase. 802-999-4644. (6)

Boumatic pipeline - \$2,500 +/-230ft / 2inch / 46 Stalls stainless steel milk line



including vacuum line, wash sink, 3 units, control box, and receiver jar is \$2500. \$4000 with vacuum pump. Call (802) 446-2791 Wallingford. Ask for Jerry. (6)

**Hay, Feed & Forage**

Good quality certified organic Haylage stored in Ag Bags and large round bales 1st,2nd, and 3rd cut. Delivery available. 802-988-2959 or 802-274-2832

Quality Canadian hay for sale, big/small squares wrapped, or unwrapped, round bales wrapped or unwrapped, 1st, 2nd, 3rd cuts available. Switch grass and straw available, call Richard at 802-323-3275

2019 1st cut Timothy and clover hay \$ 5.00 a bale plus delivery fee. Call 603-256-8422

1000 tons corn silage, processed in Colchester. 50 @ ton 802-272-3478 or 802-223-1370 or email [sethgardner@hotmail.com](mailto:sethgardner@hotmail.com)

Excellent quality first cut wrapped round bales; baleage. Shelburne VT Call Andy 802-598-6060. Analysis available upon request.

2019 1st Cut 4X4 Wrapped Round Bales for Sale \$40/ Bale, 2019 2nd Cut 4x4 Wrapped Round Bales for Sale \$45/Bale, South Pomfret, call Tom at 802-457-5834

Organic haylage 12% protein \$45 per ton, 15% protein \$55 per ton. 802-537-2435

4x4 round balage mixed grains cut late June. \$30 802-325-3707

1st cut 4x5 round bales. Don Pettis, 802-265-4566.

1st, 2nd & 3rd cut haylage and corn silage for sale at the bunk. Call Peter Gebbie 802-533-2984, leave a message.

June 15th cut mixed hay, great quality, will load, 4' x 4' round bales, \$40/bale, quantity discount/cash prices

available. Westford, 802-355-2930

Certified Organic First Cut Wrapped Round Bales for sale. Clover, Timothy and mixed grasses. Test samples and delivery available. Call Matt 802-558-3879.

Vetch & rye seeds for sale, mixed in 50 lb. bags, \$1/lb. certified by Vermont Organic Farmers.Thornhill Farm, 198 Taylor Road, Greensboro Bend, VT 05842, [todd@thornhillfarmvermont.com](mailto:todd@thornhillfarmvermont.com), 802-441-3176

**ADDISON COUNTY**

1st cut 4x5 round bales never wet. Good horse & cow hay. 802-948-2627 or 802-558-0166

Certified organic, small square bales always stacked and stored under cover, 35-40lbs/ bale. \$4/bale, discounts available for large quantities. 802-989-0781 for inquiries.

Hay for Sale in Addison, VT. Large square bales and small squares. \$50-60 for Large, \$3.50-4.50 for Small. Delivery Available. Call Jack 802-989-8968

1st cut 5ft diameter round bales. \$30-\$35 Orwell 802-948-2211

Straw for sale - \$7/bale for 50 or more. \$8/bale for less than 50, \$6/bale for all in the barn, approx. 350. from our winter rye harvest in August. certified organic. Thornhill Farm, Greensboro Bend, 05842, [todd@thornhillfarmvermont.com](mailto:todd@thornhillfarmvermont.com), 802-441-3176

Hay for Sale, Cows have been sold. 750 Lb 4X5 round bales stored inside or tube wrapped.

Bedding/Mulch \$35 Heifer/ Beef \$40 Dairy \$55 I will load your truck. In Whiting Call 802-623-6584

**BENNINGTON COUNTY**

Corn Silage 1000 ton plus. Haylage 500 ton plus. Round bales 4x4. Square bales small. 802-394-2976



## CLASSIFIEDS



1st cut hay. Good horse hay.  
\$4.50 bale 802-254-5069

**WINDSOR COUNTY**

Hay for sale-400 square bales,  
Reading, Windsor County  
Vt. \$3.50 per bale at the  
barn. Call 802-484-7240

4x5 dry round bales \$45.00  
delivery available. 802-457-  
1376

Rolling Meadows Farm: square  
bales in the field or barn  
\$4.00. Delivery can be  
arranged at \$5.50. Very nice  
hay from fertilized fields in  
the South Woodstock and  
Reading area. Call 802-484-  
5540 or goodfarmvt@gmail.  
com. Ask for David.

1st. cut dry round bales for  
sale. Never been rained on,  
stored under cover. \$50. @  
1st. cut haylage bales for sale.  
\$45. Rte. 5 Weathersfield  
Bow 802 -546-4340.

Dry Round Horse Hay, \$50/  
Bale. 200 Bales left. Call  
802-356-5030.

**Sheep**

A pure bred (w/papers)  
Romney ram 3 years old,  
1 pure bred (w/papers)  
Shetland ram for sale.  
4 Icelandic/Romney ewes  
for sale various ages/colors  
(certified organic) 422-4704  
leave message. (6)

Buying Lambs- 40lb and up  
\$1.75/lb live weight. Call  
802-674-2417. Pick up  
available (6)

**Wanted**

Dairy Grazing Apprentice,  
currently on the Corse Farm,  
graduating in September  
2021 looking for placement  
on a farm that has at least a  
potential organic market in  
the future. Ideally 50 to 80  
cows with adequate grazing  
land and a farmer, without  
a successor, interested in a  
gradual transition to a new  
farmer. MacKenzie Wallace  
mackenzierwallace2@gmail.  
com or home number: 802-  
368-2230 or cell number:  
603-289-4790 between  
12:30 -1:30 PM or 6:30 -  
8 PM (6)

Looking for several 4-spoked,  
4 ft. diameter pin wheels for  
an old Farmhand rake. The  
90-degree rod hole holding  
the pin wheel on is 2 1/4  
inches in diameter. Call 802-  
457-2218 (6)

4-6 Galvanized stock tanks. 10  
barrel or so in size. Don't  
need to hold water just

needs to hold dirt. Little bit  
of rust is ok but not a lot.  
Willing to pay some based  
on condition. Call Troy at  
802-356-9082. (6)

F350 or 450 flatbed dump.  
Dutch belt heifer calf and  
black white face bull calf.  
603-336-0017 (6)

**Vegetable & Berry News**

*continued from page 10*

**Updates From  
The UVM Plant  
Diagnostic Clinic**

*Ann Hazelrigg*

**Tomatoes.** Symptoms of  
suspected bacterial canker  
were seen in a field tomato  
sample: black streaking/  
cankers were obvious on  
stems and there was vascular  
browning present.

Foliar symptoms  
can include leaf  
edge yellowing and  
browning which  
can also resemble  
drought damage. This dis-  
ease is typically seedborne.  
[https://blogs.cornell.edu/  
livepath/gallery/tomato/  
bacterial-canker-of-tomato/](https://blogs.cornell.edu/livepath/gallery/tomato/bacterial-canker-of-tomato/)

To be sure of the  
pathogen, we use rapid  
assay test kits and also look  
for bacterial streaming  
under the microscope. The  
sample tested negative for  
the destructive bacterial  
canker pathogen. Since  
the less aggressive bacterial  
disease called tomato pith  
necrosis can also have  
vascular discoloration and  
black streaking on stems and  
this was the likely cause of  
the problem. Tomato pith  
necrosis usually occurs on  
early planted tomatoes when  
night temperatures are cool,  
the humidity is high, and the  
plants are growing vigorously  
because of excessive levels of  
nitrogen.

The disease is also associ-

ated with prolonged periods  
of cloudy, cool weather.  
Serious infections can result  
in chlorosis and wilting of  
upper portions of plants with  
brown to black lesions on  
infected stems and petioles.  
When stems are cut longi-  
tudinally, the center of the  
stem (pith) may be exten-  
sively discolored, hollow,  
and/or degraded. Stems may  
be swollen, numerous adven-  
titious roots can form, and

infected stems may  
shrink, crack, or col-  
lapse. In some cases,  
if not too severe,  
the plants can grow  
out of the damage.  
See this link for

more information: [https://  
ag.umass.edu/vegetable/fact-  
sheets/tomato-pith-necrosis](https://ag.umass.edu/vegetable/fact-sheets/tomato-pith-necrosis)

**Club root** seen on broc-  
colini. Obvious large galls on  
roots but no symptoms seen  
in the top part of the plant.  
Usually wilt, death is associ-  
ated since the roots can't  
take up water and nutrients  
as well as healthy roots.  
[https://ag.umass.edu/veg-  
etable/fact-sheets/brassicas-  
club-root](https://ag.umass.edu/vegetable/fact-sheets/brassicas-club-root)

**Thrips** seen in onions.  
[https://ag.umass.edu/vegeta-  
ble/fact-sheets/thrips-onion](https://ag.umass.edu/vegetable/fact-sheets/thrips-onion)

Feel free to send in sam-  
ples for disease and insect  
identification. Buildings on  
the UVM campus are still  
locked to the public, so it is  
best to send samples to my  
home at 206 Walker Hill  
Road, Williston, VT 05495.  
Email me first please: [ann.  
hazelrigg@uvm.edu](mailto:ann.hazelrigg@uvm.edu)

**CALEDONIA COUNTY**

Square baled hay- Top quality,  
VOF certified organic,  
generous sized. 1st cut  
\$4.50/bale, 2nd cut \$5.50/  
bale at the barn in Barnet.  
802-592-3088

**CHITTENDEN COUNTY**

Round bales for horses. Clean  
first cut timothy mixed grass,  
quality net wrapped 4' X 5'  
bales. Never wet. \$45. each.  
802- 879-0391 Westford.

15 large 5x5 round bales mixed  
grass w/some timothy +  
clover 800+lbs \$50 ea. call  
899-4126

**FRANKLIN COUNTY**

Good Quality Hay 1c & 2c  
from western US & Canada.  
Alfalfa orchard & orchard  
sweet grass 18 to 20% plus  
protein large bales & organic  
by trailer loads. Large or  
small square bales of straw  
whole or processed at farm  
we load on direct delivery by  
trailer load. Mountain View  
Dairy Farm 802-849-6266 (6)

**LAMOILLE COUNTY**

Organic baled straw. \$5.50/  
bale. Certified organic. Valley  
Dream Farm, Cambridge,  
Vt. 802-644-6598 or  
[valleydream@myfairpoint.net](mailto:valleydream@myfairpoint.net).

**ORANGE COUNTY**

2019 first cut square hay bales  
for sale. \$4.00 per bale.  
Delivery available. Bonnie  
Kennedy, Chelsea, VT. 802-  
685-2292.

Approximately 375 tons of  
high-quality grass and clover  
first and second cut, cut  
extremely early in 2018.  
First finished May 22, second  
finished July 2nd. Tests high  
in energy and protein. 45%  
harvested "hay in a day" \$50  
per ton. Chris 802-522-9485

**ORLEANS COUNTY**

Pure alfalfa for sale and also  
1st, 2nd and 3rd cut big/  
small squares, round bales,  
wrapped or unwrapped,  
straw and switch grass. Call  
Richard at 802-323-3275.

Organic Certified Silage for  
sale: We will deliver from  
our farm or you can come  
and pick up. Call for prices  
and delivery charge. 1-802-  
744-2444 or 802-274-4934  
or 802-744-6553.

**RUTLAND COUNTY**

Good quality 1st and 2nd  
round bales available,  
wrapped and dried. Please  
call 802-446-2435.

**WINDHAM COUNTY**

2020 4X4 wrapped baleage.  
June cut. Certified organic,  
never wet. 802-254-6982

**Vermont Fairs &  
Field Days**

Please visit [vtfairs.com](http://vtfairs.com) to  
get the most up-to-date  
information as to the status  
of our favorite Vermont fairs  
and field days!



## This Month's Recipe

### Corn Fritters

*Some people cook more corn on the cob than can be eaten at one time. Fritters are a great way to use that leftover corn. Enjoy!*

#### Ingredients

- 2 cups corn fresh, frozen or leftover corn on the cob
- 1/4 cup cornmeal
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 egg
- 1 green onion chopped
- 1 tablespoon jalapeno minced (optional)
- 1/2 cup Monterey jack cheese (or your favorite)
- salt & pepper to taste
- 1/4 cup milk or more if needed
- 1/8 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 2 tablespoons oil

#### Instructions

1. Combine all ingredients except the milk and oil in a small bowl. Mix well.
2. Add milk a little bit at a time if needed to make a moist mixture that can still hold its shape.
3. Heat oil over medium heat in a pan. Spoon 2-3 tablespoons of the corn mixture onto the hot oil. Cook 3-4 minutes or until golden, flip and cook an additional 3-4 minutes.
4. Top with sour cream for serving.



## Food Safety Audits

*continued from page 8*

within Vermont. To qualify for this agreement, the Vermont Meat Inspection Program must continually implement and maintain an inspection system that is "at least equal to" the federal inspection program in its administration and enforcement of requirements.

In order to verify that Vermont is operating in an "equal-to" manner, FSIS conducts an annual audit of program documents and records and performs an in-person on-site review of the Vermont Meat Inspection Program once every three years.

Amidst all of the other uncertainty of the past year, 2021 was the year for an on-site audit!

For two weeks in June, the FSIS auditor reviewed all of the state-inspected slaughter and processing facilities that were operating during that period of time. At each facility, the auditor

observed Vermont Program personnel as they performed their inspection duties. The auditor reviewed the State Program's verification of Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures, Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point plans, non-food safety consumer protection, control of specified risk materials, humane handling, slaughter inspection procedures and custom and retail exempt requirements. That is quite a list of tasks, and it can be summarized by saying that the FSIS auditor reviewed

everything the State Program personnel do in the slaughter and processing plants!

The auditor completed this intensive visit to Vermont with no significant findings. In other words, your state meat inspection team passed the audit with flying colors! What does this mean for you? It means that you can be confident that the meat and poultry products that originate from Vermont slaughter and processing facilities are continuously held to the highest standards.



*Vermont product ready for purchase! Brought to you by Vermont's meat and poultry sector businesses and protected by the FSCP Meat Inspection team.*

## Subscribe to Field Notes!

*A quarterly newsletter from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets' Food Safety and Consumer Protection Division*

If you eat food or purchase commodities at retail in Vermont, you will benefit from quarterly updates from the Agency's Food Safety and Consumer Protection Division, comprising the Dairy, Animal Health, Meat Inspection, Weights and Measures, and Agricultural Products Sections. Get a glimpse into how this specialized team ensures safe food and fair markets for all Vermonters! To subscribe, visit here: <https://vermont.us7.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=7858fdf10d2a4e7ed78a12245&id=6612b3a6ff>

## Water Quality

*continued from page 9*

and policy development for fifteen years. Sylvia enjoys working with our agricultural community and has a small farm of her own. She enjoys gardening, boating, community work, and spending time with family. (802) 782-3388; [sylvia.jensen@vermont.gov](mailto:sylvia.jensen@vermont.gov)

*WQ Specialists are a great single point of contact for farms who may have regulatory questions or be interested in the different available opportunities. You should always feel free to reach out to the Specialist in your area. For a map of current Specialist territories, visit <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality/contacts>*



*Vermont State Conservationist Vicky Drew retires after 38 years of service with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.*

# Vermont Open Farm Week 2021

*Celebrating Our Hardworking Farmers and Beautiful Working Landscapes*

By Emma Ramirez-Richer, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets



Open Farm Week is an annual celebration of our Vermont farms and farmers that includes family friendly events all over the state. In addition to a great way to spend some time outdoors in Vermont's scenic working landscape, Open Farm Week is a unique opportunity for a behind the scenes peek at (and taste of!) where our milk, maple, vegetables, fruit, meat, cheese, fiber, and more are grown and made. From August 8th through 15th, you can visit over two dozen different farms from

Townshend to Danville, Cornwall to Lyndonville. You could take a tour of



the Lightfoot Farm's nut and berry trees, hop over to Von Trapp Farm to feed the pigs, and finally cool off with an ice cream sundae drizzled with maple syrup at Breadloaf View Farm.

Vermont farmers are some of the busiest folks in the state, so Open Farm Week might be the only week of the year visitors can simply drop by many of these farms.

To view the full list of participating farms and diverse events, visit [DigInVT.com](https://diginvt.com). Finally, remember to tag the farms visited and #VTOpenFarm on your social media posts to share your unique farm experience with the wider community!

To learn more about Open Farm Week visit [diginvt.com/events-in-vermont/open-farm-week/](https://diginvt.com/events-in-vermont/open-farm-week/)

## UVM Extension's EXCITE Program Connects VT Migrant Farm Workers with Vaccinations

By Claire Bove, UVM Extension

A recent award of \$224,000 will be used by UVM Extension to enhance vaccine education efforts and address vaccine hesitancy among the agricultural community with emphasis on farmworkers in Bennington, Caledonia, Essex, Franklin, Orleans, Windham and Windsor Counties. This funding, provided through the Extension Collaborative on Immunization Teaching and Engagement (EXCITE) program, will enable UVM Extension to launch an educational campaign in Spanish and English to share information and resources on COVID-19 and other adult inoculations and the related health benefits.

The award, provided by the Extension Foundation, will enable UVM Extension to continue partnerships with the Vermont Department of Health and Larner College of Medicine, offering on-farm health clinics. Community health workers will engage one-on-one with farmworkers to support adult immunizations and address vaccine hesitancy.

For questions, or to discuss a potential farm visit, please contact the Project Coordinator, Claire Bove, at [claire.bove@uvm.edu](mailto:claire.bove@uvm.edu) or 802-249-4611. For more information, visit <https://www.uvm.edu/news/extension/uvm-extension-funded-vaccine-education>.

### Agency Contact Numbers

To help you find the right number for your question, please consult the list below. You are always welcome to call our main line 802-828-2430. We will do our best to route you to person most able to answer your question quickly and accurately.

#### Program Phone Numbers

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Act 250 .....                                | 828-2431 |
| Animal Health .....                          | 828-2421 |
| Business Development .....                   | 828-1619 |
| Dairy .....                                  | 828-2433 |
| Enforcement: Water Quality or Pesticide. . . | 828-2431 |
| Feed, Seed, Fertilizer & Lime .....          | 828-5050 |
| Licensing & Registration .....               | 828-2436 |
| Meat Inspection .....                        | 828-2426 |
| Produce Program .....                        | 461-5128 |
| Vermont Agriculture & Environmental Lab. .   | 585-6073 |
| Water Quality BMP .....                      | 828-3474 |
| Water Quality Grants .....                   | 622-4098 |
| Water Quality Reports .....                  | 272-0323 |
| Weights & Measures .....                     | 828-2433 |
| Working Lands .....                          | 622-4477 |

### Hemp

*continued from page 8*

- registrants/licensees must either ensure the disposal of such cannabis plant on site at the farm or hemp production facility or use a DEA-registered reverse distributor or law enforcement to dispose of non-compliant plants.
- A negligent violation occurs when a cannabis plant's total delta-9- THC concentration exceeds 1.0%.
  - All registrants will be able to remediate and retest a

harvest lot that exceeds the acceptable hemp THC level by

- Removing flowers and leaves and disposing of them appropriately, and retaining only stalk; or
- Chipping the entire plant into biomass.
- Hemp registrants/licensees will only accrue one negligent violation per calendar year.

Laboratories that conduct testing must report their results to USDA, and effective on January 1, 2023, all registrants/licensees may only use DEA-registered

laboratories to conduct THC potency testing.

These are some significant changes that will occur in 2022 and will apply to all hemp grower registrants-both commercial and personal use growers. Please see the Code of Federal Regulation review the requirements of the Domestic Hemp Production Program, <https://ecfr.federalregister.gov/current/title-7/subtitle-B/chapter-IX/part-990>. For more information on hemp regulation in Vermont, please contact Stephanie Smith, [Stephanie.smith@vermont.gov](mailto:Stephanie.smith@vermont.gov).



# Vermont's Produce Program Launches Marketing Campaign

*Celebrating Farms' Focus on Food Safety*

*"By Trevor Audet, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets"*

The Vermont Produce Program ... it means good food. Quality food. And the support of Vermont farms. I know, coming off our farm, it was handled properly. I know our best practices. It's the culture of our farm. – Melissa Mazza, Sam Mazza's Farm Market of Colchester.

Have you ever picked up a pint of ripe cherry tomatoes from your local farmers' market? Pop a couple in your mouth, snap the thin skin with your teeth and an explosion of fresh, sweet juice hits your tongue. It's a true taste of Vermont summer that you've come to expect. But how often do you think about the journey those tomatoes take from the field to your mouth? The farmers who provide your local fruits and veggies will tell you it's not an easy job. It's a story best told by people who care the most – our farmers.

That's why the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets' Produce Program partnered with growers to celebrate the



*Melissa Mazza of Sam Mazza's Farm Market in Colchester*

steps they take from field to customer through a new marketing campaign. With a combination of videos, radio, and social media ads, the campaign features three farmers telling their stories, a message that truly "puts a face with the product" and invites Vermonters to value the food they buy, how it's produced, and who grows it.

"In Vermont, people really care about buying locally, and putting a face with the product. It was a growing plant, it was a crop. As soon as you cut it, it's food. And you've got to keep it clean." – Hank Bissell, Lewis Creek Farm of Starksboro.

The Vermont Produce

Program works with farmers like Mazza, Bissell, and Mendell to implement the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, which sets standards for the safe growing, harvesting, packing, and holding of fruits and vegetables. Farmers across the state are implementing best practices for food safety and strengthening consumer confidence in the quality and safety of fresh fruits and vegetables.

"We feel like there's a responsibility to our customers. We really want to give them a product that they can trust." – Taylor Mendell, Footprint Farm of Starksboro.

In developing this unique marketing initiative, the Vermont Produce Program took a collaborative approach to raising awareness about the culture of produce safety on local farms and why it matters to consumers. A partnership with DigInVT.com created a landing spot for consumers to find local farms producing fresh produce.



*Taylor Mendell of Footprint Farm in Starksboro*

Farms that wish to be listed on DigInVT.com are invited to get in touch with the Vermont Produce Program at [AGR.FSMA@vermont.gov](mailto:AGR.FSMA@vermont.gov).

In addition, farmers were surveyed on what they want their communities to know about their produce safety practices. "Providing food to families that really care about what they eat is the best part of what we do." – Mendell.

So remember, you can find Vermont produce like those sweet cherry tomatoes at your local farm, farmers market, and grocery store. Good for you and your family. Good for Vermont.

To find Vermont produce, visit [DigInVT.com/produceprogram](http://DigInVT.com/produceprogram)

To learn more, visit [agriculture.vermont.gov/produceprogram](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/produceprogram)



*Hank Bissell of Lewis Creek Farm in Starksboro*

Vermont Farm Bureau is a grassroots not-for-profit membership organization dedicated to supporting Vermont farm families, agriculture and forestry.

We advocate for public policies that strengthen and grow our agricultural economy and conserve our natural resources.

[www.vtfb.org](http://www.vtfb.org)



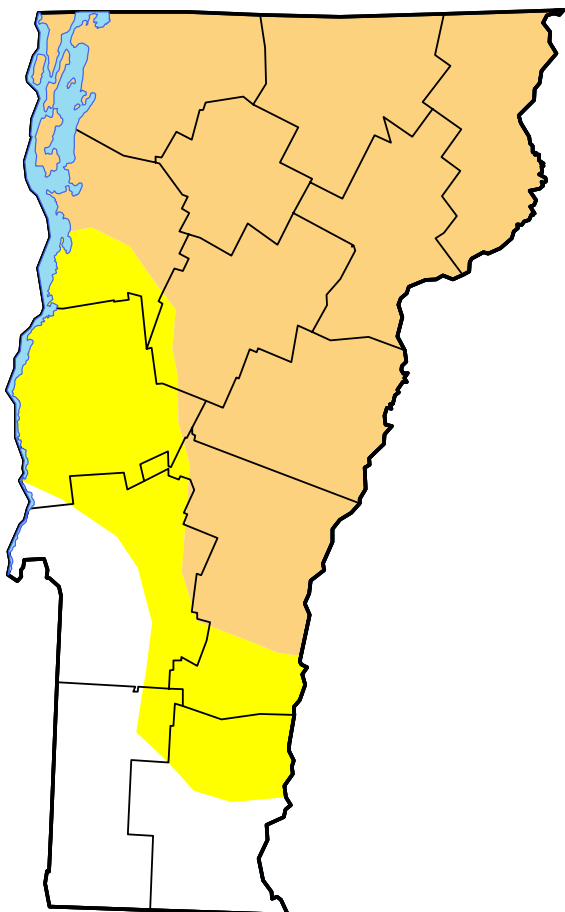
The unifying voice of Vermont Agriculture



# Drought Early Warning Monitor

U.S. Drought Monitor  
**Vermont**

**July 6, 2021**  
(Released Thursday, Jul. 8, 2021)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



- Intensity:
- None
  - D0 Abnormally Dry
  - D1 Moderate Drought
  - D2 Severe Drought
  - D3 Extreme Drought
  - D4 Exceptional Drought

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>*

Author:  
Deborah Bathke  
National Drought Mitigation Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

**T**he U.S. Drought Monitor is a map released every Thursday, showing parts of the U.S. that are in drought. The map uses five classifications: abnormally dry (D0), showing areas that may be going into or are coming out of drought, and four levels of drought: moderate (D1), severe (D2), extreme (D3) and exceptional (D4). The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For the latest information about drought status, please visit [nedews.nrcr.cornell.edu](https://nedews.nrcr.cornell.edu)

**VERMONT**

# BEEF

**INDUSTRY COUNCIL**


## DID YOU KNOW?

**Every time you sell live cattle of any age, breed, purpose or number directly to another person, you are responsible for making sure that the \$1-per-head beef checkoff assessment is sent to the Vermont Beef Industry Council.**


**Visit us at**  
**[vtbic.org](https://vtbic.org)**


## Vermont Beef Producers Association

Educating producers  
Building cattle markets  
Supporting Vermont's beef industry  
Representing members statewide



Join or renew online at  
**[www.vtbeef.org](https://www.vtbeef.org)**





## Vermont Economic Development Authority

Financing for Vermont Farms,  
Diversified Agriculture and  
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[www.veda.org](https://www.veda.org) | (802) 828-5627